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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

ETHICON, INC.

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☒ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: NONE

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 03 25 1999

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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08-12-2003

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
P,X	EP 1 270 024 A (ETHICON INC) 2 January 2003 (2003-01-02) * column 1, line 50-column 2, line 2 * * column 3, line 7 - 11 * * column 9, line 41 - column 10, line 2 * ---	1-7, 10-12, 14-17, 19-21,35	A61L24/04
A	US 3 806 479 A (CUNNINGHAM A ET AL) 23 April 1974 (1974-04-23) * column 2, line 11 - line 46 * ---		
A	EP 0 747 072 A (UNITED STATES SURGICAL CORP) 11 December 1996 (1996-12-11) * column 2, line 15-23 * ---		
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 8 December 2003	Examiner Staber, B
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			